

Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

General Information: The Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1953. The district assists landowners and managers with irrigation water management, erosion control, and range improvements. District interest in the quality of water resources has resulted in helping livestock operators develop and maintain animal waste systems.

Mission, Vision or Function:

OCD Mission is to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution, protect our soil and water resources on working lands, educate the public, and protect our food source.

The vision of the Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District is to cultivate a prosperous agricultural lifestyle for producers of Owyhee Conservation District, by supporting their choices and encouraging sustainable viable production of commodities and livestock in a free market society.

FY 2015 Accomplishments:

- Sponsored the Coordinated Weed Management program Spray Day (for the 7th year).
- The District purchased a no-till drill in the spring of 2015, for use by area farmers.
- The Owyhee Conservation District hosts a luncheon and offers a free class to farmers and others to renew their pesticide application license. Each year we have over 30 people attend, we include a free lunch chili, sandwiches, drinks and cookies. This program is well received and attended every year.
- Youth Programs – sponsored the 2015 poster contest, which had the theme “hard working Pollinators”

- The District had a booth at the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo in August. Sharing the newest and best information about farming and other related practices.
- Contributed to the FFA youth livestock sale.
- Working with partners to help victims of the Soda Fire this fall.
- In January, Rick Smith was named District Conservationist of the Year to honor the Smith’s sustainable cow-calf operation.

Future Plans and Projects:

- Continue to encourage coordination with conservation partners for the protection of land, water and air.



Operator participating in “Spray Day”

FY 2015 District Funding:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| State Funding | \$15,207 |
| County Funding | \$3,000 |
| Coordinated Weed Management Funds | \$30,976 |
| Total | \$49,183 |